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18 May 2004
Mr David Brightwell
Directorate of Honours and Awards
PO Box 2003
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Dear Mr Brightwell,,

Following our recent emails, I have studied the book (Campaign & Operational Medals Awarded to the Australian Defence Force) which you kindly sent to me, and I have discovered an apparent anomaly. When you have a few moments, could you please consider my points below, as I (very reluctantly) feel a mistake may have been made awarding me the Australian Active Service Medal 1945 and from Active Service Badge, both of which I covet.

Page 26 of the book states that The Australian Active Service Medal 1945 is awarded for operational service in one or more of 3 theatres. In my case, and from your email, it seems the theatre was the Malayan Emergency. It also states that quote "must first qualify for one or more of 6 other medals, and these are listed. Presently I have none of these 6 medals. There are two which might be related to my service. One is The General Service Medal 1918 The other is The Naval General Service Medal 1915"

I am far from any sort of expert on medal qualification, but it seems to me that there are three possible explanations:

1. Because I have none of the 6 prerequisite medals, I do not in fact qualify for the Australian Active Service Medal as advised by your email Wednesday 12th May. This would disappoint me greatly, but I would not like to be a
2. If I do in fact qualify for the AASM, then I am entitled to one, or two of the 6 prerequisite medals, specifically the GSM 1918 , and/or The Naval General Service Medal 1915
3. As an alternative to 2 above, there are nuances to the rules, not explained in the book, and of which I am not aware, entitling me to the AASM but without one of the 6 prerequisite medals.

Regarding the outcome of your review of this matter, I certainly hope it won't be 1 above. I would be delighted if your review yielded 2 above, but this is most unlikely. Probably number 3 is the only rational explanation.

Sincerely,

George Stevens